Funding request to OsGeo Oceania

Following the success of our Travel Grant Program (TGP) in 2018, 2019, and 2022 the FOSS4G SotM Oceania 2023 Conference is offering a TGP to facilitate participation in the conference to selected people of the communities.

To support this program, we are requesting support from the OSGeo Travel Grant Fund in the amount of AUD $13,500.

Number and size of grants

We aim to offer approximately 13 grants supporting travel, divided in three tiers. This is not a fixed strategy; we will reallocate the budget depending on the applicant pool. Depending on the success of our fundraising drive, we may be able to expand the program by offering more grants in this round, or running a second, targeted round. OO's contribution of AUD $13,500 could already unlock up to 12 grants, depending on the allocation of budget to the proposed tiers (see below).

We plan to offer grants in 3 tiers. These are subject to change depending on demand and available funding. Eligible costs include transportation, accommodation, and visa costs.

Tier	Support offered	# of grants *	Est. budget
1	- Free conference & workshop registration - Up to NZD $2,250 (~AUD$2,100) to assist with eligible travel expenses	3	NZD $6,750 3 registrations
2	- Free conference & workshop registration - Up to NZD $1200 (~AUD$1,120) to assist with eligible travel expenses	5	NZD $6,000 5 registrations
3	- Free conference & workshop registration - Up to NZD $250 (~AUD$230) to assist with eligible travel expenses	5	NZD $1,250 5 registrations

* Type and number of tiers and number of grants available will depend on the final budget and actual costs. For example, we can decide to keep the 3 tiers formula targeting local minorities with the third tier, or concentrate all the budget to the first two tiers in order to allow people to cover more expenses.

Selection criteria

As a general set of guidelines, successful TGP applicants:
- are resident in the Oceania region
- would find it difficult to attend without funding assistance
- can demonstrate experience/interest in open geospatial
- belong to an underrepresented community, and their presence will contribute to diversity amongst conference attendees
- is in a position to add value to their own community

We intend to follow the selection criteria established for the HOT unSUMMIT Grant (see here and the Appendix 1 for more information)

We intend to follow, approximately, the same process we used in past Travelling Grant programmes:
- One selection committee member will act as chair. This person will communicate with grantees as they submit, clarifying any doubts about their applications, and opening a channel of communication.
- At the close of the submission period, the chair will prepare an anonymised spreadsheet of eligible submissions and lead a discussion with the selection committee about the assessment criteria and process, to ensure the group is working collaboratively.
- The selection committee will undertake a period of review and scoring, using the listed criteria. This will, hopefully, indicate a clear consensus on most of the grants. The committee will meet and discuss any marginal choices and agree on a final set of grants.
- The chair will communicate with grantees and confirm the uptake of the grants, and work with grantees to facilitate travel planning, including securing appropriate visas, as needed.

Selection committee

Grantees will be selected by a Selection Committee, currently consisting of:
- Elisa Puccioni
- Jonah Sullivan
- Violaine Doutreleau
- Greg Lauer

We will also ask the winners of the 2022 grants to become members of the Selection Committee. We think that this will encourage them to strengthen their involvement in the Oceania OS community.

More community members are welcome to volunteer and be part of the selection panel.

How will grants be paid, and by whom: This will depend highly on the grant recipient's specific circumstances. We intend to reimburse recipients for actual expenses via bank transfer if possible. It is often not convenient or even possible to do standard bank transfers. Additionally, some recipients will require funding in advance to enable their participation: In the past years we worked with grantees to ensure a smooth delivery of funds on arrival at the conference, and will address this in a similar fashion in 2022.

Appendix 1 - Eligibility criteria

Criteria for Evaluation

Due to time constraints and in order to have a fair and transparent process, applications will go through a two-step evaluation screening:

⭐Eligibility Requirement - required to

🌟Additional criteria - awarded points based on additional criteria

1. Eligibility Requirement

To be eligible, applicants must meet these three factors:

⭐Applicant is from Oceania **1 point**

⭐The applicant should be in possession of a valid passport with at least 6 months validity at the time of travel **1 point**

⭐The applicant actively contributes to and participates in the [open mapping / open data / open source / geospatial] community. **1 point**

2. Additional Criteria

Applicants who meet the eligibility requirements will go through the next round of evaluation and will be evaluated based on the additional criteria, with points awarded:

🌟Applicant is a woman/LGBTQ / part of other minority groups **1 point**

🌟Applicant is a student **1 point**

🌟Applicant has submitted a presentation proposal or plans to submit a talk at the Pacific Geospatial Conference **1 point**

🌟Applicant's motivation statement (details of contributions and participation as well as how their attendance will benefit their local community / humanitarian open mapping community) **0 to 3 points**